

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** A hydrodynamic bearing system, comprising:

a shaft;

a bearing sleeve, said bearing sleeve having an inner cylindrical bore and said shaft being inserted into said inner cylindrical bore;

a bearing gap formed between said shaft and said bearing sleeve, said bearing gap being filled with a lubricating oil; and

a shield enclosing said bearing sleeve,

wherein said shield is secured to an end surface of said bearing sleeve, said end surface of said bearing sleeve, said shield and an outer surface of said shaft defining an inner shielded space between said shaft and said bearing sleeve, wherein said bearing sleeve having has a recessed portion between its outer cylindrical surface and its inner cylindrical surface ~~closest to said outer cylindrical surface~~, said recessed portion being located within said inner shielded space at a position on said end surface that is distanced from said bearing gap, and wherein said inner cylindrical surface creates a wall between said recessed portion and said bearing gap, said wall precluding lubricating oil from making contact with said shield.

**Claim 2 (Original):** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1 further comprising at least one bearing element mounted on said shaft, wherein said bearing gap is formed between said bearing sleeve and said bearing element.

**Claim 3 (Original):** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1 further comprising a lubricating oil reservoir, wherein said shield is secured to said end surface of said bearing sleeve at a position that is distanced from said lubricating oil reservoir.

**Claim 4 (Canceled)**

**Claim 5 (Original):** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1, further comprising a temperature barrier groove.

**Claim 6 (Original):** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1, wherein said shield is secured to said bearing sleeve by laser welding.

**Claim 7 (Currently Amended):** A spindle motor having a hydrodynamic bearing system, said hydrodynamic bearing system comprising:

a shaft;

a bearing sleeve, said bearing sleeve having an inner cylindrical bore and said shaft being inserted into said inner cylindrical bore;

a bearing gap formed between said shaft and said bearing sleeve, said bearing gap being filled with a lubricating oil; and

a shield enclosing said bearing sleeve,

wherein said shield is secured to an end surface of said bearing sleeve, said end surface of said bearing sleeve, said shield and an outer surface of said shaft defining an inner shielded space between said shaft and said bearing sleeve, wherein said bearing sleeve having has a recessed portion between its outer cylindrical surface and its inner cylindrical surface closest to said outer cylindrical surface, said recessed

portion being located within said inner shielded space at a position on said end surface that is distanced from said bearing gap, and wherein said inner cylindrical surface creates a wall between said recessed portion and said bearing gap, said wall precluding lubricating oil from making contact with said shield.

**Claim 8 (Original):** The spindle motor according to Claim 7 further comprising at least one bearing element mounted on said shaft, wherein said bearing gap is formed between said bearing sleeve and said bearing element.

**Claim 9 (Original):** The spindle motor according to Claim 7 further comprising a lubricating oil reservoir, wherein said shield is secured to said end surface of said bearing sleeve at a position that is distanced from said lubricating oil reservoir.

**Claim 10 (Canceled)**

**Claim 11 (Original):** The spindle motor according to Claim 7, further comprising a temperature barrier groove.

**Claim 12 (Original):** The spindle motor according to Claim 7, wherein said shield is secured to said bearing sleeve by laser welding.

**Claim 13 (Canceled)**